

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 H-03 PRS-01

PA-04 IO-14 DRC-01 /112 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 876

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11022

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN UR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AMERICAN/AEROFLOT PROBLEMS

REF: A) STATE 152505; B) STATE 151567; C) MOSCOW 10024

1. ECON COUNSELOR HANDED NOTE TO COUNSELOR IL'YIN OF USA DIVISION MFA AT 1500 MOSCOW TIME, THEN GAVE COPY TO V.D. SAMORUKOV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPT OF MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AT 1600. AS EXPECTED, NEITHER PROVIDED OFFICIAL REACTION, BUT IL'YIN INDICATED REPLY WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN DUE COURSE.

2. AFTER PERUSAL OF NOTE, IL'YIN INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED TO SEE THAT NOTE REFLECTS APPROACH "NOT IN HARMONY" WITH PROGRESS IN BUILDING CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE COMMENTED THAT MFA HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION THAT DESPITE MINOR PROBLEMS COOPERATIONHIN FIELD OF AIR TRANSPORT HAD BEEN MOVING FORWARD.

3. SAMORUKOV, WHO RECENTLY ASSUMED PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES AS DEPUTY TO MCA FOREIGN RELATIONS CHIEF PAVLOV, SAID HE WAS CERTAIN OFFICIAL RESPONSE, WHEN FORMULATED, WILL INDICATE STRONG DISSATISFACTION WITH EXPLANATION OF COURT SUBPOENA
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AND RELATED ACTION. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT HE PERSONALLY FELT

MCA WOULD PREFER TO "ABANDON THIS FRUITLESS EXCHANGE OF COMPLAINTS AND MOVE FORWARD TO FIND BETTER AND MORE SATISFACTORY WAYS OF EXPANDING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AIR TRAVEL." IN REPLY TO COMMENT THAT BEST WAY TO PREPARE FUTURE COOPERATION WOULD BE TO CORRECT PAST ERRORS, SAMORUKOV SAID THAT WHILE SOVIET CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES MAY NOT REPLY IN VEIN PARALLEL TO NOTE, FACT IS THAT THEY HAVE ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO AEROFLOT TO CEASE ABUSIVE PRACTICES.

4. REFERRING TO PAN AM'S ALLEGED "ILLEGAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES," (REF C), SAMORUKOV SAID THAT HAVING JUST CHECKED THE MUTUAL ACCOUNT BETWEEN BOTH AIRLINES, AEROFLOT ACCOUNTANTS ON BASIS DATA AVAILABLE TO THEM FOUND THAT PAN AM'S CUMULATIVE DEBT TO AEROFLOT OVER PAST YEAR EXCEEDS DOLS ONE MILLION, AND THAT THIS CIRCUMSTANCE TENDS STRENGTHEN VIEW IN MCS THAT PAN AM IS RAISING HOST OF MINOR AND SOMETIMES FICTITIOUS COMPLAINTS IN ORDER DRAW ATTENTION FROM ITS OWN MISDEEDS. SAMORUKOV STATED THAT "JUST ONE WEEK AGO AEROFLOT PRESIDENT WROTE TO PAN AM PRESIDENT" TO ADVISE HIM OF AEROFLOT'S FINDINGS.

5. WHILE EMBASSY HAS NO WAY OF JUDGING ACCURACY OF AEROFLOT'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT PAN AM, FACT THAT NEITHER SOVIET OFFICIAL APPROACHED REACTED STRONGLY AGAINST CONTENTS NOTE SUGGESTS AWARENESS THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT ON AEROFLOT'S PART. STOESEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, AIR FARES, PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW11022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740190-0479
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740745/aaaabmqo.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 152505; B) STATE 151567; C)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: PAN AMERICAN/AEROFLOT PROBLEMS
TAGS: ETRN, UR, AEROFLOT, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005